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Patent
Docket 2001/7

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Vancura)
Serial Number: 10/050,460) Art Unit Unknown
Filed: January 15, 2002) Examiner Unknown
Entitled: Method and Apparatus For Wild Selectable Symbols

Submission of Prior Patents for Consideration

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir,

In connection with the pending application identified above and before the first action on the merits, Applicant submits herewith two additional prior patents as background. These prior patents are not specifically referred to in the application as filed but mention of their operation is disclosed, for example in reference to the Penguin game. It is requested that the Examiner consider the enclosed patents.

United States Patent Number 6,089,977 has a draw poker machine with a sequential wild feature invoked, for example by an ACE in the first card position and a club suit in the last card position. The sequential feature has a wild card symbol (equivalent to the PENGUIN in another embodiment) displayed sequentially in each card position as a wild card in combination with the remaining cards of the hand. A prize is awarded for each new winning combination created by the wild card. In the penguin theme game, when the player obtains a predetermined outcome during play of the game, a sequence is initiated wherein the penguin symbol marches through the display creating different combinations with different winning pays. A sequential wild symbol as the bonus

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creates combinations when the wild symbol sequences in a prearranged order from position to position.

United States Patent Number 6,290,600 has an electronic gaming device with a display of at least three reels for spinning and stopping so reel symbols are displayed as a winning or a losing outcome based upon the combination. On one or more pay lines symbols or blanks align as the outcome(s). Symbols scattered anywhere on the display can also define additional winning outcomes. A processor programmed, configured and adapted senses the occurrence of predetermined bonus triggering. Triggering the bonus sequence may be the display of a feature symbol on one reel and the display of a landing symbol on another, adjacent reel. So the symbol moves from a first position to at least one or more landing positions on the display. Bonus awards are based upon the number of landing positions moved to by the designated symbol. If landing positions are displayed for all reels the symbol moves sequentially from left to right from one landing symbol to the next. Based upon how many reels the feature symbol can progress through the player wins a bonus award. If there is no landing symbol on a reel, the processor senses this condition and ends the bonus play. Alternately if the next adjacent reel does not include a landing position that reel re-spinning to display the newly selected symbols including a landing position to which the feature symbol moves and the foregoing is repeated for the next reel or termination is initiated.

Applicant claims include player input by symbol selection. The player strategy used by the play will enhance the award received. The patents noted herein do not include that method step of apparatus for that purpose. Thus the player has no influence over the outcome in the prior patents. Also the symbol moves in accord with the sequence in '977 and subject to landing positions in '600.

Not so in Applicant's claimed and disclosed method and apparatus wherein the player selects the spot for a wild symbol. Making strategic information available to the player so selection affords opportunities to play favorably. Players know by obtaining a bonus-

enabling outcome they are going to obtain a bonus. They do not know how much. There has no selection by which the player might expect to increase the bonus won during play.

On behalf of Applicant,

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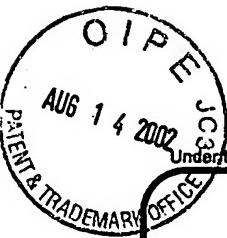
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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/050,460
		Filing Date	JANUARY 15, 2002
		First Named Inventor	VANCURE
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	2001 / 7

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application | | |
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- Remarks *Submission before first action*

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

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Firm or Individual name	Mikohn GAMING CORPORATION AARON PASSMAN	TECHNOLOGY CENTER - PG 700
Signature	<i>Aaron Passman</i>	
Date	AUGUST 8, 2002	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: **8-8-02**

Typed or printed name	<i>Wanda Jacobson</i>
Signature	<i>Wanda Jacobson</i>
Date	AUGUST 8, 2002

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